REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 13-15, 18, 21, 24, and 27 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-7, 11, 16, 19, 22, and 25 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 26 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 14 and 25-27 as identical to claims 1, 9, 11, and 13, respectively. However, claim 14 depends from claim 13 and the combination of claims 13 and 14 recite limitations which are not recited in claim 1 and claim 1 recites limitations which are not recited in the combination of claims 13 and 14. Further, claims 25-27 recite means-plus-function elements, while claims 9, 11, and 13 do not.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the objection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY LEE (US 6,067,520)

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to a system comprising "a translation unit translating an inputted original sentence into a translated sentence by selecting each translation word one by one from a plurality of translation words respectively corresponding to words composing the original sentence, and by combining the selected translation words," "a speech recognition unit selecting another translation word matching inputted pronunciation from the plurality of translation words except for the translation word selected by the translation unit, and outputting the selected another translation word as a result of speech recognition," and "a correction unit correcting the translated sentence translated by the translation unit by using the selected another translation word outputted from the speech recognition unit."

Lee shows the basic principle and structure of the invention of the mandarin speech recognition apparatus. In FIG. 1, the acoustic processing section 11 recognizes monosyllables by means of acoustic signal processing, and the linguistic decoding section identifies the exact characters based on the recognition result of the monosyllables. The intelligent learning section 13 corrects the sub-syllable unit models 114 which are used for the recognition of the

monosyllables in the acoustic processing section 11, and Chinese language model 124 used for selecting the correct characters from homonyms in the linguistic decoding section 12, based on the contents of correction of the output t text made by a user. (See column 5, line 32 through column 6, line 12 of Lee).

According to the above, Lee is fundamentally different from the present invention because Lee relates to improving the accuracy of speech recognition by utilizing the correction of the recognition result by user. By contrast, the present invention, as described in claim 1 for example, relates to supporting the correction of a translated sentence output by a translation unit.

Further, the present invention is capable of inputting the correction of a translated sentence by speech, since it comprises the speech recognition unit and the correction unit (see claim 1). Lee describes that the correction of characters can be done on the screen (see column 5, lines 65-66), but fails to disclose or suggest the correction of characters by speech.

Also, in the present invention, the range of selection of a word that matches inputted speech is limited to the translation words that had once been selected by the translation unit as the candidates to be used for a translated sentence, but was eventually not used in order to improve the recognition accuracy (see claim 1). By contrast, Lee describes that the correction result of speech recognition made by user is reflected to the database for linguistic analysis.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Lee.

The above-described distinguishing features regarding claim 1 of the present invention are similarly present in independent claims 16, 19, 22, and 25 of the present invention. Thus, it is also submitted that independent claims 16, 19, 22, and 25 patentably distinguish over Lee for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and patentably distinguish over Lee for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Lee also does not describe the features as recited in claims 11, 12, 17, 20, 23, and 26 of the present invention.

In claim 11, for example, the correction unit corrects a translated sentence made by the translation unit by re-translating the whole original sentence using a translation word (translation word of a part of the words constituting the original sentence) that has been inputted into the translation word input unit.

By contrast, Lee at column 14, lines 49 through column 15, line 22, indicated by the Examiner as disclosing the correction unit, merely describes a method of "word clustering" to establish "Chinese Language Model," and neither discloses nor suggests re-performing speech recognition of input speech, on the basis of the correction contents of the speech recognition result of the input speech.

The above-described distinguishing features regarding claim 11 of the present invention are similarly present in independent claims 17, 20, 23, 26. Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and patentably distinguishes over Lee for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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